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July 10, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 72 – June 2017
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report (MPR) for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by NCG Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

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1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- Responses to USEPA's comments on the FS gas ebullition and FS shoreline sediment programs were submitted via e-mail to USEPA on June 2.
- A request for NCG responses to USEPA's comments on the FS groundwater seepage program was provided via e-mail by USEPA on June 2. Responses to USEPA's comments were submitted to USEPA on June 9.
- Comments on the draft Feasibility Study Field Program Work Plan (FS Field Work Plan) (Part 2) geotechnical and nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL) programs, as well as additional comments on the ebullition program, were provided via e-mail by USEPA on June 9.
- Comments on the project schedule were provided via e-mail by USEPA on June 13.
- An e-mail indicating all of USEPA's comments on the revised Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment (BHHRA) were addressed was provided by USEPA on June 13. The e-mail also directed the NCG to remove the transmittal letter from the document itself and to submit it as a standalone document, along with the BHHRA, by June 20. The final BHHRA was submitted to USEPA on June 20. USEPA approved the final BHHRA on June 28.
- Comments on NCG responses to comments on the FS shoreline sediment sampling program were provided via e-mail by USEPA on June 14.
- Conditional approval to conduct the FS gas ebullition pilot study the week of June 19 was provided by USEPA on June 14. On June 15, the NCG requested to delay the FS gas ebullition pilot study due to the time needed to discuss and resolve USEPA's technical comments on the study, including the additional comments provided by USEPA on June 9. During a follow-up teleconference on June 15, USEPA agreed that a delay to the program was needed to properly discuss and resolve comments on the proposed work.
- The revised Modeling Approach Memorandum (3) was submitted to USEPA on June 19.
- A request to extend the submittal date for the revised Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA) to July 21 was submitted to USEPA on June 29. Also on June 29, USEPA approved the request to submit the revised BERA on July 21.
- A project update meeting was held with USEPA in New York City on June 22. Technical items discussed during this meeting included the following: 1) USEPA

comments on the FS Field Work Plan; 2) FS field program update; 3) USEPA comments on the project schedule; 4) technical topics and timing for the upcoming Clean Water Act/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act meeting; and 5) posting of technical documents to the NCG public website.

- The FS groundwater seepage program continued and was completed on June 23.
- A teleconference to discuss USEPA's comments on the FS gas ebullition pilot study was held with USEPA on June 29.

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month

- None.

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- The NCG has repeatedly requested information from the City of New York that is needed to complete the RI/FS. In an e-mail dated November 1, 2016, USEPA indicated it will wait until after completing its review of the draft RI Report to determine whether the requested information is needed to complete the RI/FS. A determination as to whether these data are needed will be made after receiving USEPA's final comments on the draft report.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- Responses to USEPA comments on the FS shoreline sediment sampling program are due to USEPA by July 6.
- Responses to USEPA comments on the FS geotechnical and NAPL programs are due to USEPA by July 14.
- Responses to USEPA comments on the draft Feasibility Study Work Plan are due to USEPA by July 21.
- The revised BERA is due to USEPA by July 21.
- A project update meeting is scheduled with USEPA for July 27.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchoragea.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Quadrini", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE

Anchor QEA, LLC

cc: Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith